



NAVY BAND NORTHWEST

CEREMONIAL BAND

The Ceremonial Band is the traditional "military band" unit and core of Navy Band Northwest. Under the direction of Chief Musician Robert Watson, this impressive, highly polished musical organization enjoys an outstanding reputation throughout the Pacific Northwest where it serves to heighten esprit de corps throughout the military community, promote patriotism, and increase public awareness of the Navy's mission. Comprised of 18 to 21 instrumentalists plus vocalist, the unit maintains an extremely active schedule performing traditional march music and patriotic favorites by composers such as John Phillip Sousa, Karl King, Henry Fillmore and Irving Berlin at over 70 engagements per year.

The Ceremonial Band provides support to every Naval Command in the Pacific Northwest, an area that boasts the third highest Naval Fleet concentration in the United States. It provides support for homecomings, changes-of-command, retirement ceremonies, commissioning and decommissioning of ships and military units. Additionally, the band performs at numerous special events including civic functions, patriotic events, opening ceremonies and public concerts, serving as musical ambassador for Commander, Navy Region Northwest. Annually, the band performs an integral role for Seattle's SEAFair festivities, performing at numerous venues including the Seattle Center and Museum of Flight.

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LEADER, CEREMONIAL BAND

Chief Musician Robert Watson, U.S. Navy

Chief Musician Robert Watson grew up in Philadelphia, Hong Kong, and Southern California. He started playing trombone professionally while a student at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In 1987, he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the School of Architecture and Environmental Design, and the following year, enlisted in the Navy as a musician, attending Boot Camp at RTC San Diego, CA.

After graduating from "A" School at the Navy School of Music in Norfolk, VA, Chief Watson served as a trombonist with the SEVENTH Fleet Band, Yokosuka, Japan. Subsequent assignments have included duty with Navy Band Northeast in Newport, Rhode Island and the SIXTH Fleet Band in Naples, Italy. In 2002, he received advance musical training in the Ceremonial Conducting and Drum Majoring Course in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon successful completion of "C" School, he received orders to Navy Band Northwest where he currently serves as Ceremonial Band Conductor and Leading Chief Petty Officer.

With over 16 years of service, Chief Watson has led and performed in some of the Navy's finest musical ensembles. He has toured Europe, Russia, many former Eastern Bloc countries, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia performing for Presidents, Heads of State, and hundreds of thousands of civilian and military personnel.

Chief Watson's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards) and the Navy Good Conduct Medal (4 awards).

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